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HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE HOUDON STATUE OF WASHINGTON.—In the angle formed by the front portico and eastern wing of the State House at Columbia, on a crude pedestal, constructed by convict laborers of scrap granite and marble, stands one of South Carolina's greatest art treasures. It is the bronze cast of Jean Antoine Houdon's marble life-size statue of George Washington. On the front of the bronze base upon which the statue stands is the name "George Washington"; on the left side the words "fütied J. Günthermann" and on the right side "fait par houdon Citoyen francais, 1788" and "W. J. Hubbard Foundry, Richmond, Va., 1858."

The history of this statue and of its original are interesting chapters in the history of art in South Carolina and in America.

On the 22nd of June, 1784, the General Assembly of Virginia—

Resolved, That the Executive be requested to take measures for procuring a statue of General Washington, to be of the finest marble and best workmanship, with the following inscription on its pedestal:

"The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia have caused this Statue to be erected as a Monument of Affection and Gratitude to GEORGE WASHINGTON, who, uniting to the Endowments of the Hero the virtues of the Patriot, and exerting both in establishing the Liberties of his Country, has rendered his Name dear to his Fellow Citizens, and given the World an immortal Example of true Glory."

That inscription was written by James Madison. Benjamin Harrison was at the time governor of Virginia, and a little more than a month after the date of the resolution, he wrote to Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, then in Paris, and asked them to attend to the matter, and acquainted them that he had requested Mr. Peale (Charles Willson) to send them a full-length por-

trait of Gen. Washington, to be used as a model for the sculptor. Franklin and Jefferson engaged Houdon, a portrait sculptor then without a rival in the world, to go to America for the purpose. Jefferson wrote:

The terms are twenty-five thousand livres, one thousand English guineas, for the statue and pedestal. Besides this, we pay his expenses going and returning, which we expect will be between four and five thousand livres; and if he dies on the voyage, we pay his family ten thousand livres. This latter proposition was disagreeable to us; but he has a father, mother, and sisters, who have no resource but in his labor; and he is himself one of the best men in the world.

To insure the State against loss in case of his death, Jefferson, through John Adams, procured an insurance upon Houdon's life, in London, at an additional expense of five hundred livres, or about ninety-two dollars. It was more than a year after the order for the statue was given before Houdon arrived. He came in the same vessel that brought Franklin home. On the 20th. of September, 1785, Franklin gave Houdon a letter of introduction to Washington, and, at the same time, wrote to him to apprise him of Houdon's arrival. Washington immediately wrote to Houdon:

It will give me pleasure, sir, to welcome you to this seat of my retirement; and whatever I have or can procure that is necessary to your purposes, or convenient and agreeable to your wishes, you must freely command, as inclination to oblige you will be among the last things in which I shall be deficient, either on your arrival or during your stay.

Houdon arrived at Mount Vernon on the 3rd. of October, furnished with all necessary materials for making a bust of Washington. He remained for a fortnight, and made, on the living face of Washington, a plaster mould, preparatory for the clay impression, which was then modelled into the form of a bust, and immediately, before it could shrink from drying, moulded and cast in plaster, to be afterwards copied in marble, in Paris. The clay model was left at Mount Vernon, where it was seen in 1859 by Benson J. Lossing from whose work, *Mount*

Vernon and Its Associations, the foregoing details have been gathered.

In the presence of James Madison Houdon made exact measurements of the person of Washington, made notes on the sort of clothes he wore, etc., and then returned to France. The statue was not completed until 1789, when to the inscription upon the pedestal were added the words: "Done in the year of CHRIST one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, and in the year of the commonwealth, twelve."

This statue, which still adorns the capitol at Richmond, is of fine Italian marble, life-size. The costume is of the military dress of the Revolution. The right hand rests upon a staff; the left is upon the folds of a military cloak thrown over the end of a bundle of fasces, with which are connected a sword and plough. Gouverneur Morris, who was in Paris when the statue was executed, stood as a model for the person of Washington, writing in his diary under date of "June 5, 1789": "Go to M. Houdon's. He's been waiting for me a long time. I stand for the statue of General Washington, being the humble employment of a manikin. This is literally taking the advice of St. Paul, to be all things to all men."

About half a century ago several reproductions in bronze were made of this statue at the foundry of W. J. Hubbard, in Richmond, as set forth on the base of South Carolina's copy. One of these reproductions is at Lexington, Va., one at Raleigh, N. C., one is still in private hands and there is possibly one in New York.

When these reproductions were offered for sale Hon. A. P. Butler, then senior United States Senator from South Carolina, wrote to Governor Allston advising him to procure one for the State.

In his next message to the General Assembly, November 23, 1857, Governor Allston had this to say:

One of the last letters which I received from the late Senator Butler, related to a copy, in bronze, of Houdon's statue of Washington, which he recommended should be purchased by the State. It is pleasing to recur to the recollection of this great and good man. It is a boon to mankind when the good God permits sometimes the wisdom of love, associated with faith and hope, to be embodied in a human form, whose favor we may look upon and admire. It is true that our debt of gratitude to his memory cannot thus be paid; but it is due to ourselves that we should acknowledge it by some visible token, and it is due to posterity to provide a monument, to which the young may be pointed when curious to realize the idea of his manly proportions, or when enjoined by their matrons to study the character of Washington, and emulate the virtues which adorn it. I propose that a statue be ordered and that provision be made for its erection with the New State Capitol.

This part of the Governor's message was referred to the Special Joint Committee on the State House and Grounds. This committee was so busy at that time with the work of building the new State House that their report was not reached during the session. At the next session Governor Allston had this to say in his annual message, read to the General Assembly on November 23, 1858:

The statue of Washington, to which my Message of last November alluded, as having been proposed by the lamented Senator Butler, was completed soon after. Ascertaining in March that the artist was obliged to dispose of his work, and being certified that it was valuable, I took it for the State at ten thousand dollars, advancing two thousand from the Contingent Fund. I now ask an appropriation of eight thousand dollars to complete the purchase, and compensate fully the ingenious artist. The statue is of bronze. It has been placed in the Orphan House grounds in Charleston, under the care of the city authorities, until the New State House shall be sufficiently finished to render it safe in the State grounds here.

On the 18th. of December the following report was read in the House:

The Committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the purchase of the statue of Washington, respectfully report: That they have duly considered the same, and approve the purchase made by the Governor, and they recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That eight thousand dollars be appropriated to complete the purchase of the statue of Washington, and that the Governor be authorized to draw the same, and pay it over to the proper party.

Resolved, That the House do agree to the report.

Ordered, That it be sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By order,

JOHN T. SLOAN, C. H. R.

In the Senate, December 20, 1858.

Resolved, That the Senate do concur in the report,

Ordered, That it be returned to the House of Representatives.

By order,

WM. E. MARTIN, C. S.

When the new State House had been "sufficiently finished to render" the statue "safe in the State grounds" the statue was taken up from Charleston and placed in the lower corridor of the State House where it remained until sixteen or seventeen years ago when it was removed to the spot where it now stands. During that period the walking cane upon which the General's right hand rests was in some manner broken.

AN EARLY FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—So far as is generally known to students of American economic history the first fire insurance company in America was organized in Charles Town in 1735. *The South-Carolina Gazette* contains frequent advertisements and notices of this company, from November 15, 1735, to February 19, 1741. It was called The Friendly Society for the Mutual Insuring of Houses against Fire, and the names connected with it, were those of some of the most prosperous and prominent men of the Province.

The following notices from *The South-Carolina Gazette* give best the history of the forming of this company, and the methods of conducting its business:

I can with Pleasure inform my Readers, that there was one Day last Week a Meeting of several of the Freeholders of this Town, who then entered into an Agreement to form themselves into a *Friendly Society* for a mutual insuring of their Houses against Fire. And as by the Agreement and Proposals annexed thereto, this Design is cal-

culated only for a general Good to the Freeholders who shall enter into the same, it is not doubted but the several worthy Freeholders will, on Perusal thereof (which lye at the House of Capt. Wm. Pinckney on the Bay for that Purpose) think them so reasonable and advantageous as to deserve their Attention and Encouragement, by signing the same within a Month from this Day.

The Agreement will be continued at the above Place, for the Perusal and Signing of the Inhabitants till the first Day of *January* next, and in the mean time the proper Articles and Regulations will be prepared, of which Notice shall from time to time be given in this Paper, in order to their being then punctually carried into Execution. (November 15, 1735.)

Agreeable to the Advertisement in last Gazette, several Gentlemen who ware willing to be concerned in Insuring their Houses from Fire, mett at Capt. Wm. Pinckney's last Tuesday Evening, where they agreed to several Articles, in order to form themselves into a Society for the above Purpose, and appointed a committee to prepare and draw up the Same by next Meeting, which was greed to be on Tuesday next the 23d Instant at 5 o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the aforesaid House.

These are therefore to desire all such as are inclined to be concerned, that they would not fail meeting, to give their Opinions on the Rules then to be laid before them.

N. B. It is proposed to open the Book for Subscriptions the *First* Day of *January* and to continue till the *First* Day of *February* next. (December 20, 1735.)

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT, indented, had, made, concluded and agreed upon, by and between the several Persons, Freeholders and Owners of Houses, Messauges and Tenements in Charles-Town in Berkley County in the Province of South-Carolina, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, for a mutual Insurance of their Houses and Tenements from Loss by Fire.

WHEREAS the *Insurance of Houses against* Fire hath by experience been found to be of very great Service, to many Persons, who would otherwise have been reduced to Poverty and Want. And whereas, by reason of our Distance from Great-Britain, no Insurance Office there, will upon any Terms or Conditions, insure any House in this Town from Loss by Fire; and it being natural for Men to form themselves into Companies and Societies, in order to guard against those Evils and Mischiefs, which separately and in their distinct capacities they would not be able to avoid. WE THEREFORE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, Freeholders and Owners of Houses Messuages and Tenements in *Charles-town* taking the Premises into Consideration, DO by these presents freely and voluntarily, and for our mutual Benefit and Advantage, covenant, promise, conclude and agree, for ourselves and our re-

spective Heirs, Executors and Administrators, to and with each the other of us, in manner and form following, that is to say,

Imprimis, We do covenant, promise, conclude and agree, That we will, and we do by these Presents form ourselves (as far as by Law we may) into a SOCIETY for the mutual INSURANCE of our respective Messuages and Tenements in *Charles-Town* (which shall be entered in Books of the Directors of the Society to be insured) from Losses by Fire, and do name and call ourselves the FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Item, We do covenant, promise, conclude and agree, that we will become humble Suitors to his Honour the Lieut Governor, and the General Assembly, to pass an Act of General Assembly in Favour of our said Society, thereby to enable us to purchase Lands, Houses, and Tenements. Goods and Chattels, and to lend out Moneys, in order to have and establish a Fund, always ready to make good any Loss or Demand that may be made on the said Society, and for Enabling Guardians to insure Messuages, Houses and Tenements of Orphans and Minors.

Item, That no Person or Persons whatsoever shall be, or be admitted to be, a Member of this Society, but such only as have, or shall, a Messuage, House or Tenement, scituate in *Charlestown* aforesaid, insured.

Item, That all such Persons who shall become Members of this Society, shall meet on every first *Tuesday* in *February* Yearly and every year, at such House as the Directors shall appoint, The first General Meeting to be at the House of *William Pinckney*, in *Charlestown* aforesaid, or at such other time and Place as the Majority of the Members shall appoint, to choose proper Officers and to make such Rules and Regulations as may appear Necessary.

Item, That there shall be chosen on such Annual Meetings of the said Society, by the Majority of the Members then present, five Directors (three of whom shall be a Quorum) one Treasurer, and one Clerk, and three Appraisers, and also two or more Fire Masters, whose particular business shall be directed in the first General Meeting of the said Society.

Item, That towards raising a Fund, for answering all Exigencies of the said Society, every Member of the Society insuring a House, Messuage or Tenement, to the Value of *One Thousand Pounds*, Current Money, shall pay down, before he has his Policy of Insurance delivered to him, the Sum of *Ten Pounds* like Money, by way of *Premium*, and so in proportion for a greater or less Sum by every Member insured.

Item, That every Member of the Society, insuring a House, Messuage or Tenement, to the Value of *One Thousand Pounds* Current Money, shall give his Bond, payable to the Directors and Treasurer of the Society, and their Successors in Office for *One*

Hundred Pounds like Current Money, (and so in proportion for a greater or less Sum insured) payable with lawful Interest at 10 per Centum, within 12 months next ensuing the Date of such Bonds which Interest shall be duly paid yearly and every year. And in case any Person or Persons shall refuse or neglect to pay the Interest as aforesaid to be come due on their respective Bonds by the Space of 3 Months after the same becomes due, every such person so refusing or neglecting as aforesaid, shall loose and forfeit all Benefit and Advantage of his Insurance, any thing in his, her or their Policy of Insurance to the contrary notwithstanding.

Item, That all Monies, arising by the Payment of the said Premiums, and the Interest of the several Bonds as aforesaid, which shall remain in the Hands of the Treasurer (over and above the Sum of 200l) after defraying all necessary Charges accruing on extinguishing hire, shall by the Directors be lent out at Interest, upon good and sufficient Security, on Bonds payable as aforesaid, and all the Interest thereon, as soon as the same shall be paid in, shall be again let out at Interest, for the Use and Benefit of the said Society proportionably: Provided that no less a Sum than 100l. shall be lent to any one person.

Item, That in case of a Loss by Fire, happening to any person insured by the said Society, all the Members of the said Society shall be obliged to pay to the Directors and Treasurer such part of the Money due on their Bonds, or the whole thereof, if it be necessary, to pay and make good to the Insured, what their Loss may appear to be, agreeable to the Policy of Insurance of the person sustaining such Loss.

Item, That within 3 Days after any Fire and Loss to any person insured, the proper Officers of the Society shall survey the Damage, and report the same to the Directors, who shall thereupon take such Measures as shall be necessary for the Payment of the Loss sustained.

Item, That every Person insured shall have a lawful Claim and Demand upon the Directors of the Company for their Loss sustained by Fire, in the Messuage House or Tenement insured, agreeable to their Policy of Insurance, and such Loss shall be made good to them within three Months after such Loss. And if it should so happen, that such Person is not then paid his Loss, he shall be allowed lawful Interest thereon, from the Expiration of the said three Months, until same is paid; which shall be absolutely done, both Loss and Interest, within 12 Months from the Loss.

Item, But in case it shall so happen, that more Houses, Messuages or Tenements insured should be burned or destroyed by Fire, than the whole stock of the Society should amount to, then and in every such case there shall be but an equal and proportionable Division of the said Stock to every Person according to his Loss

sustained and the said Society shall be discharged from making good any Loss further than the Amount of their Stock.

Item, That when any Loss shall happen to any Person insured, his Proportion of any Demand that might be made on his Bond towards making good such Loss, shall be reckoned as paid to him in part of Payment of his Loss sustained.

Item, That if in time of Fire, the Fire Masters, or other Officers of the Society, shall think it necessary to pull down or blow up a House insured, in order to stop the Fire, such House shall be made good to the Insured in the same Manner as if it had been destroyed or damaged by Fire.

Item, That no House, Messuage or Tenement shall be insured for a less Sum than 250 Pounds Current Money, nor any for a larger Sum than *Four Thousand* Pounds like Money.

Item, That for the better Regulating the affairs of the said Society, every Member having 500 Pounds insured, shall have a right to vote, in all Meetings of the said Society, in all Matters, transacting therein, and any two Persons having 250 pounds, each insured may join, and be intituled to one vote, and any Person having 1000 Pounds insured shall be intituled to two Votes, and so in proportion for a greater or less Sum insured

Item, That in order the better to establish and continue this Society, that no Member thereof shall be at Liberty, at any time within 5 Years next ensuing the Date hereof, to withdraw himself or his Bond (to be entered into as aforesaid) but shall be obliged to pay the same according to the Tenor thereof, and these Articles, only in case such Member shall *bona fide* sell or dispose of his House, Messuage or Tenement insured; then and in such Case his bond shall be delivered up or discharged *pro tanto*, without any further Demand to be made upon him, nor shall he any further, as to such Messuage, House or Tenement so *bona fide* so sold or disposed of, be deemed a Member of the said Society. But on any Persons so selling or disposing of his Messuage, House or Tenement insured, the Vendee, on signing a Bond of the same Import with that signed by the Vendor, on his being insured, shall be intituled to the same Benefits and Advantages, Subject to the same Demands as the Vendor is intituled or subject to under his Insurance.

Item, That these Articles shall be subscribed and closed on the first *Tuesday* in *February* next, when the Proper Officers for the ensuing year shall be then chosen by a Majority of the Society then present. And that the Directors, then named shall have Power to admit other Persons, who are willing to become Members of the said Society, at such times and in such classes as they think proper.

In Witness Whereof &c. (December 27, 1735.)

Whereas at the last Meeting of those who designed to be concern'd in Insuring their Houses from Loss by Fire, several Rules, for the better government of the said Society were agreed to, and ordered to be printed in the next Gazette, that all Persons, who are willing to be concern'd, may be fully apprized of the same; It was also agreed, that those Rules should be ingrossed, and ready to be signed by every Person willing to be a member, on or before the *First Tuesday* in *February* next.—That each Person who subscribes those Rules, shall at the same time subscribe the Sum he will engage in as a Member.—That as the Supposed Value of those, who had the former Subscriptions declared their Readiness to concur in this affair, would amount to above £100,000, It was then resolved to carry the Design into Execution, if no others should join in it.—That Mssrs Jacob Motte, James Crockatt, and Henry Perroneau jun should be Managers in behalf of the Society until *First Tuesday* in February next, when the Proper Officers should be chosen.

And to prevent, as much as possible, any needless Expende, most of the Company then present declared their Readiness, to Serve in any Office they might be thought capable of, or chosen into, without Fee or Reward.

We the above named Managers for the Friendly Society do hereby give Notice that the Rules, printed in last Saturday's Gazette, will be ingrossed and ready for signing by Tuesday the 6th. of January and that the same will lay at the House of Mr. Jacob Motte from that Time to the First Tuesday in February. And also desire all those who subscribe to the same that they would give in a List of what Houses they design to have Insured, describing the Situation, Quality and Value thereof, in order to have Policies of Insurance ready for the Same. (January 3, 1736.)

On Tuesday last most of the Members of the FRIENDLY SOCIETY mett at the House of Capt. Wm. Pinckney and made choice of the several Officers, to wit,

John Fenwick, Joseph Wragg, Charles Pinckney, Esqrs; Mr. James Crockatt, Mr. Henry Peronneau jun; Merchants Directors. Gabriel Manigault Esq; Treasurer. Mr. Jacob Motte Clerk. Capt. Edward Croft, Capt. Isaac Holmes & Mr. Archibald Young, Appraisors. Capt. Gerrit Vanvelsen and Mr John Laurens, Fire-Masters, for the Year ensuing, agreeable to their Rules; and finding it would take some further time to prepare the Policies, Bonds etc. they agreed, That from this Night to the first day of *March* next all the subscribers to their Rules shall be *Insurers* and *Insured* to all Intents, as much as if they had given Bond and received their Policies; and, That those Members who do not take out their Policies by that Time, will no longer be *Insured* but Still *Insurers*. It was also further agreed, that any person may be admitted as original Member till that time, which Day is appointed for another general Meeting of the said So-

ciety, at 6 o'clock in the evening at the same place.

N. B. The Policies will be ready to be delivered by Mr. *Gabriel Manigault*, Treasurer of said Society, on Thursday next. (February 7, 1736.)

Notice is hereby given to the several Members of the Friendly Society that their annual Meetings by their Articles, is to be on every First Tuesday in February, at the House of Capt. William Pinckney in Charles town, these are therefore to remind the several Members of said Society thereof, and that they may make proper Provision for the Payment of the Interest which will be due to the said Society on the Third Day of said Month, to the Treasurer of said Society, or other ways they will forfeit the Benefit of their Insurance; and also to give notice to the several persons who have borrowed any Money from the said Society that unless they punctually discharge the Interest due on their Bonds on the said 3d Day of February, their Bonds will be sued without further notice; The said Interest Money together with several other Sums of Money being there to be lett out at Interest for the Benefit of the said Society. And these are further to give Notice to all Persons who are willing to enter into the said Society, that the Books will be kept open to the first Day of March next, until which Time all persons properly qualified, who are willing to enter into so useful and commendable an undertaking, may be admitted as original Members, applying to Mr. Jacob Motte, in Charles Town. (January 22, 1737.)

These are to give notice to all and every the Members of the Friendly Society for the mutual Insurance of Houses in Charles Town, from loss by Fire, and also to all the Freeholders in Charles Town who are, or have a mind to become Members of the said Society, that the additional Articles and Agreements, directed to be prepared by a great Majority of the Members of the said Society are finish'd, ingross'd and Signed by several of the Members, and are left at the House of Mr. James Osmond on the Bay in Charles Town aforesaid, for the Persual and signing of the Members of the said Society; and that the same will be continued there for the said Purposed until the Eleventh Day of July next, after which Time, by a clause in the said Articles, no Person can be admitted as a Member of the New Co-partnership; These are therefore to give publick Notice thereof to all the Members of the said Society, and all the other Freeholders of Charles-Town, that they may, if they think proper, enter into said Society, and become Co-partners in the said Additional Articles, and partake of all the Advantages arising thereby, provided they do the same before the said Eleventh Day of July next. (April 9, 1737.)

Whereas some of the Members of the *Friendly Society* have omitted to pay the Interest arising on their Bonds to the said Society and which becomes due on every third Day of February, it was thought proper and so ordered by the said Society at their last annual Meeting

to publish the following Paragraph of the Articles of the said Society, to the Intent that several Members may be apprised of the Danger they run into by the neglect of Payment of their Interest, besides leaving themselves subject to be sued on their respective Bonds to the said Society. It is therefore expected that all the Members of the said Society will for the future be punctual in discharging the Interest of their Bonds on the Day it becomes due.

“And in case any Person or Persons shall refuse or neglect to pay the Interest as afore said to become due on their respective Bonds, by the space of 3 months after the same becomes due, every such Person so refusing or neglecting as aforesaid shall loose or forfeit all Benefit and Advantage of his Insurance, any thing in his her or their Policies of Insurance to the contrary notwithstanding.”

By order of the Friendly Society,

Jacob Motte, C. (February 9, 1738.)

The following notice is the last one which appears in the *Gazette*. On November 18, 1740, there was a large fire which consumed half the town. The loss has been estimated at \$1,500,000, and three hundred houses were destroyed. This fire in all probability ruined the Friendly Society:

Pursuant to the Directions given at a General Meeting of the Friendly Society in Charles-Town on Tuesday the Third Instant. These are to give Notice to the Several Persons indebted to the said Society, that unless they discharge their respective Debts on or before the 25th Day of March next, they must expect to have their Bonds put in Suit; and as the Necessity the Society are under for calling in their Money, must be apparent to every one, it is hoped that no Person will fail of punctually paying off their Bonds within the Time above limited, or take it amiss if they do, if they are then sued without further notice by

Charles Pinckney.

(February 19, 1741.)

Any further information about this early insurance company will be of great value to the South Carolina Historical Society, or any information about the policies will be appreciated, as the Society is very anxious to obtain one, or a photograph of one, if any still exist.